Author's response to reviews

Title: Integration in primary community care networks (PCCNs): examination of governance, clinical, marketing, financial, and information infrastructures in a national demonstration project in Taiwan

Authors:
Blossom YJ Lin (yenju1115@hotmail.com)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor:

This revised manuscript has been revised as requested from two reviewers’ comments. All revisions have been shown point-by-point responses to the reviewers’ comments in the following. And this revised manuscript has been edited by English professional for language corrections.

Thank you for your help!

Sincerely,

Blossom Yen-Ju Lin
Revisions for Reviewer 1 (Runo Axelsson) ‘s comments:

1. What is needed is a clear theoretical framework introducing the main concepts of the article.

Answer:

Many thanks are given to the reviewer’s comments for improving this paper.

The theoretical concept behind this study were derived from several theories and models including structural contingency theory, contingency strategic management theory, and top management model, emphasizing the role of managers on organization design, which was referred as “network integration mechanisms” in this study, including governance, clinical, marketing, financial, and information integration. The revised manuscript has made several clarifications. First, the author added the subtitle “theoretical framework for organization design of network integration” in the first part of Method section (the revised manuscript, p. 6-8), followed by the subtitle “survey instrument development”. It could make the whole paper more logically for reading.

By the way, the author added the theoretical framework and reorganized the literature in the first part of Method section to meet this journal format (Background, Method, Result, Discussion and Conclusion). And it was easier for readers to follow because the survey instrument (questionnaire) was derived from the theoretical concepts and literature reviews in this study.

In addition, the author added the conceptual framework into the original Figure 1 (the revised manuscript – Figure 1, p. 27) to emphasizing the concept of network integration in the network management. Furthermore, the author clarified the point of this study on the descriptive understandings and also raised the issue that further researches could testify the causal relationship between network integration and its effectiveness. The re-plotted Figure 1 could make much clearer in expressing the thoughts of this study.
Revisions for Reviewer 2 (Ingrid Mur-Veeman)'s comments:

1. There is one thing the author should do, yet, to make it better. For the author says to investigate the nature and extent to which Taiwanese PCCNs' network infrastructures have been integrated in respect of five aspects, but in the conclusion the author does not give a clear answer to this question. So, the author should provide the reader with a clear judgment about the extent of integration, comparing the different aspects and giving an interpretation of this comparison. After adding this, the manuscript could be allowed to be published.

Answer:

Many thanks are given to the reviewer's comments for improving this paper. As suggested, the author has added the conclusion description in the first paragraph of Conclusion section (the revised manuscript, p. 18-19) to answer and response the purpose of this study proposed.